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REMARKS

Applicants request that the Examiner enter the present amendment in the cited application. After entering this amendment, claims 1 (amended), 2, 5 (amended), 7 (amended), 14 (amended), 18 (amended), 27, 28 (amended), 30 (amended), 32 (amended), 33, 34, 35 (amended), 38 (amended), 40 (amended), 42 (amended), 43 (amended), 45 (amended), and 46 are pending. Originally filed claims 3, 4, 6, 8-13, 15-17, 19-26, 29, 31, 36, 37, 39, 41 and 44 have been cancelled.

The invention that is now claimed in the cited application is directed to a novel imageable composition that contains an acid curable composition, an acid generator, and an infrared absorber as well as a strong non-volatile acid having a pKa of not more than about 8. The presence of the strong non-volatile acid in the imageable composition importantly enhances and improves plate speeds and processing latitudes when used in printing plate applications. These enhanced features are described in the present specification at page 28, line 29 bridging to page 29, line 5.

Applicants submit that the amended claims are fully supported by the specification and originally filed claims. The use of strong, non-volatile acids in the present imageable composition, for example, is described in the specification at pages 15-18. The use of a specific blue dye, D11 dye (pending claim 42) is set out in the examples at pages 29-38. The present amendment does not include new matter.

Further, Applicants note that the subject matter of the canceled dependent claims are clearly within the scope of the amended, pending claims. These dependent claims to various embodiments of the now claimed invention were cancelled to aid the prosecution of the cited application and are not subject matter that is intended to be disclosed but not included within the scope of the claimed invention.

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In the outstanding office action, originally filed claim 42 was rejected under 35 USC 112 because there was no antecedent basis for the recitation of the term "colorant dye." Amended claim 42 now recites that the imageable composition further comprises a "blue dye" having a structure represented by the formula provided. Applicants submit that the amended claim overcomes the current rejection and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Further, originally filed claims 1-46 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,340,699 (Haley et al.).

In the office action, the Examiner noted that Haley et al. "discloses an acid curable composition having an infrared absorber with a counter anion derived from a non-volatile acid."

Applicants submit that Haley et al. reports a composition that contains a "latent Bronsted acid" as an essential ingredient of the composition (Haley et al., col. 5, lines 5-7). As used in Haley et al., the term "latent Bronsted acid" is expressly defined as an ingredient that refers to a precursor which forms a Bronsted acid by decomposition (Haley et al., col. 5, lines 7-8). In contrast, the now claimed invention recites a composition that comprises a strong, non-volatile acid having a pKa of not more than about 8. This recited element is not a precursor that forms an acid by decomposition.

Because Haley et al. does not report the use of a strong non-volatile acid, such as, for example, the particular sulfonic acids recited in claims 28, 30, 32 or 33, Applicants submit that Haley et al. does not anticipate, teach or suggest the now claimed invention and request that the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the present amendment, Applicants submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner pass the present application to issuance.

Respectfully Submitted,

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